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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/773,118

02/04/2004

Paul V. Cooper

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05/01/2009

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EXAMINER

KASTLER, SCOTT R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1793

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/01/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/773,118	<b>Applicant(s)</b> COOPER, PAUL V.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Scott Kastler	<b>Art Unit</b> 1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-13 and 15-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-7 and 19-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 11-13 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lehman'286. Lehman'286 teaches, in the embodiment of figures 2 and 9 for example, a molten metal pump with a superstructure (56) supported by support posts (52,53) of equal height which support the superstructure on their top surfaces with through bolt holes (52a) containing bolts, with a thinner portion (52) extending through the superstructure and interacting with a post clamp (60) and a wider portion (53) below the superstructure thereby showing all aspects of the above claims.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-18 are is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehman'286 in view of either of Cooper'328 or Cooper'681. As applied to claim 8 above, Lehman'286 shows all aspects of the above claims except that the pump include the variously

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recited pump components (discharge, gas transfer conduit and metal transfer conduit) although the disclosure of Lehman'286 allow the use of the recited posts in such molten metal pumps, or that the throughbolt hole has a diameter greater than 1/32" more than the throughbolt. Each of Cooper'328 or Cooper'681 teach that a molten metal pump (10) including a pump base with gas and metal transfer conduits, and a superstructure (26) supported by a plurality of support posts (24) was known in the art at the time the invention was made. Because Lehman'286 discloses an improved system for connecting support posts to molten metal pumps in general, motivation to employ the support post system of Lehman'286 in the pumps of either of Cooper'328 or Cooper'681 would have been a modification obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. With respect to the throughbolt hole size, since the throughbolt system of each of Lehman'286 and that of the above claims operate in substantially the same manner with substantially the same results, motivation to employ any equally useful throughbolt hole diameter, as long as it is large enough to receive the throughbolt, as also required by Lehman'286, would have been a modification obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Since it has been well settled that motivation to alter the size or shape of a component (the throughbolt hole) shown by the prior art without materially altering the operation of the component or apparatus, would have been a modification obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. See MPEP 2144.04 IV A and B.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 3/16/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments regarding Gilbert and Thut have been considered and these

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rejections have been withdrawn. However applicant's argument that Lehman'286 does not teach support posts with narrow and wide sections is not persuasive because the coated, lower section (53) of the posts of Lehman'286 are wider than the upper sections (52). While section 52 extends through the superstructure and is engaged by the clamp.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott Kastler/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793

sk